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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for depositing a quantity of a fluid containing a protein reagent of interest onto a surface of a substrate, said method comprising:

(a) front loading said quantity of fluid into a thermal inkjet head comprising an orifice and a firing chamber, wherein said front loading comprises contacting said orifice with said fluid in a manner so that said fluid flows through said orifice into said firing chamber, wherein said quantity of fluid is no more than about 5 μ l;

(b) positioning said loaded thermal inkjet head in opposing relation to said surface; and

(c) actuating said thermal inkjet head to deposit said quantity of fluid onto said surface in a manner that maintains said reagent's functionality.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises applying back pressure to said head during said contacting step.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein no more than about 2 μ l of fluid is loaded into said head during said loading step.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said protein of interest is present in said fluid at a concentration that ranges from about 5 to 1000 μ g/ml.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises washing said head following said actuating step (c).